

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 143267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, GR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION; GREECE

1. DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATIONS FOR ALL COUNTRIES AS PART OF OVERALL PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. SET FORTH BELOW IS DRAFT EVALUATION FOR GREECE. EACH COUNTRY EVALUATION WILL BE CLASSIFIED DOCUMENT FOR USE WITHIN USG ONLY, WILL COVER CERTAIN SPECIFIC AREAS, AND WILL INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR US ACTION. DEPT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON FOLLOWING TEXT NO LATER THAN JUNE 24.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION: GREECE

A. CONDITION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GREECE  
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PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS MAY 22 ADDRESS AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY SINGLED OUT GREECE AS ONE OF "DEMOCRACY'S GREAT RECENT SUCCESSES." SINCE THE FALL OF THE JUNTA AND GREECE'S RECOMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY IN JULY 1974, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS DEMONSTRATED A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE SINGLE MOST SIGNIFICANT RECENT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE PROMULGATION IN JUNE 1975 OF A NEW CONSTITUTION OFFERING BROAD PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SPECIFIC GUARANTEES. THE CONSTITUTION INCORPORATED -- AND THE GOVERNMENT HAS HONORED -- MANY OF THE ELEMENTS CONTAINED IN THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PART II OF THE CONSTITUTION, ENTITLED "INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIAL RIGHTS," CONTAINS ARTICLES WHICH ASSURE PERSONS LIVING WITHIN GREECE FULL PROTECTION OF LIFE, HONOR AND FREEDOM IRRESPECTIVE OF NATIONALITY, RACE OR LANGUAGE, RELIGION OR POLITICAL BELIEFS. THE CONSTITUTION ALSO PROVIDES THAT NO PERSON SHALL BE DETAINED WITHOUT A WARRANT AND MUST BE BROUGHT BEFORE A COMPETENT MAGISTRATE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ARREST. THERE ARE ALSO PROVISIONS AGAINST "TORTURE, BODILY MALTREATMENT, IMPAIRMENT OF HEALTH, AND USE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE."

GOVERNMENT POLICY IS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH DUE PROCESS. PERSONS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, ARE FREE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN GREECE. THE NEW CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE FOR ALL PERSONS OVER 21. TRIALS, EVEN OF PERSONS ACCUSED OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DURING THE JUNTA PERIOD, HAVE BEEN GENERALLY FAIR AND OPEN. WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW AL-

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LEGATIONS OF MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS BY INDIVIDUAL OFFICIALS, THE GOVERNMENT HAS EFFECTED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE CONDUCT OF SECURITY OFFICIALS.

THE GOVERNMENT, WHICH TOOK POWER FOLLOWING ELECTIONS IN 1974, IS COMMITTED TO FULFILLING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS FOR FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION. PROGRAMS TO MEET THESE NEEDS ARE WEIGHED AGAINST COMPETING NATIONAL PRIORITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE FISCAL POLICY.

GREECE IS 98 PERCENT GREEK ORTHODOX. THE LARGEST RELIGIOUS

MINORITY CONSISTS OF MOSLEMS (MOST OF WHOM ARE GREEK CITIZENS OF TURKISH EXTRACTION) WHO NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 125,000 AND RESIDE LARGELY IN THE VILLAGES OF THRACE IN NORTHEASTERN GREECE. THIS MINORITY COMPLAINS ON OCCASION OF OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL MALTREATMENT AND HARASSMENT, AND IN AUGUST 1976 A MOSLEM MOSQUE AND SCHOOL WERE BURNED IN ALEXANDROUPOLIS. THERE ARE ALSO COMPLAINTS THAT MOSLEMS ARE IMPEDED FROM BUYING AND SELLING LAND, AND THAT

THEY FACE BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS IN OBTAINING DRIVER'S LICENSES, BUILDING PERMITS, ETC.

WHATEVER DISCRIMINATION EXISTS IS NOT OVERT. THE MOSLEM MINORITY IS REPRESENTED BY TWO ELECTED DEPUTIES IN PARLIAMENT, AND A MOSLEM RECENTLY LOST A VERY CLOSE MAYORALTY ELECTION IN KOMOTINI, A MAJOR CITY OF THRACE. THERE ARE NEARLY 300 MOSLEM SCHOOLS, THOUGH GENERALLY OF A LOWER QUALITY THAN GREEK SCHOOLS. THE MOSLEMS APPEAR SOMEWHAT LESS AFFLUENT THAN THEIR GREEK NEIGHBORS, BUT, AS TOBACCO FARMERS, MANY HOLD VALUABLE AND PRODUCTIVE LAND.

THE 1975-76 ANNUAL REPORT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) NOTES THAT THE ONLY "PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE" ADOPTED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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AI ARE 32 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IMPRISONED FOR REFUSAL TO PERFORM MILITARY SERVICE. THAT NUMBER HAS NOW RISEN TO OVER 40. GREEK LAW, LIKE THAT OF MANY STATES, MAKES NO PROVISION FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY SERVICE. RE-ARREST AND RE-IMPRISONMENT FOR THE SAME CHARGE ARE POSSIBLE AND SOME CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS ARE NOW SERVING THEIR THIRD TERMS. AI HAS CONDUCTED DETAILED DISCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM, THUS FAR TO NO AVAIL, WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE.

#### B. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GREECE IS NOT A PROBLEM COUNTRY, BUT RATHER, AS THE PRESIDENT INDICATED IN HIS NOTRE DAME SPEECH, AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROGRESS THAT CAN BE MADE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD WITHOUT A CONCOMMITANT RISK TO INTERNAL SECURITY.

THE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES CASES TOUCH ON THE ISSUE OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION, A QUESTION ON WHICH THERE IS NO WORLD CONSENSUS. THE MOSLEM MINORITY IN THRACE -- AND A "COMPANION" MINORITY OF SOME 10,000 GREEKS IN ISTANBUL -- HAVE BEEN BONES OF CONTENTION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY SINCE A POPULATION RESETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES EFFECTED IN 1923 UNDER THE TREATY OF PEACE WITH TURKEY (TREATY OF LAUSANNE).

WE BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE GREEK PUBLIC, INCLUDING INTELLECTUALS, IS SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL STANDARD OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN GREECE AND WOULD REACT NEGATIVELY, AS WOULD THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, TO ANY IMPLICATION THAT GREEK PERFORMANCE WAS IN ANY SENSE SUBSTANDARD. ENCOURAGING THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE FURTHER CHANGES OR IMPROVEMENTS WOULD, THEREFORE, NEITHER CONFIDENTIAL

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BE WELCOME OR LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE.

WITH REGARD TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA, GREEK INTEREST IS SHARPLY FOCUSED ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, I.E., THOSE INVOLVING CYPRUS AND TURKEY. ITS INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES OUTSIDE THE IMMEDIATE AREA HAS BEEN INCONSISTENT, AND GREECE CAN BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA ONLY WHEN SUCH SUPPORT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH ITS BROADER FOREIGN POLICY GOALS.

THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN 1974 ARE STILL YOUNG AND FRAGILE. ANY NATIONAL CRISIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY TEST THEIR RESILIENCY. GREECE'S RECORD OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN MANY PERIODS BEFORE 1974 WAS FAR FROM EXEMPLARY, AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD, THEREFORE, CONTINUE OVER THE NEXT 12 MONTHS TO MONITOR THE OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN GREECE, INCLUDING THE TWO ISSUES SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED HEREIN. WE SHOULD ALSO REMAIN READY TO ENCOURAGE, ON A BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL BASIS, GREECE'S CONTINUED OBSERVANCE OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS. END TEXT. VANCE

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